

MARCH 2005

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Allegheny ADVOCATE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ALLEGHENY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

MARCH 6

A Different Kind Of Advocacy

Therese Libert & Maryanne Sonick

22,000 children are in foster care in Pennsylvania on any given day. As a foster parent for 9 years, Therese Libert has a story to tell. Maryanne Sonick is a foster care caseworker and trainer. Join Allegheny members, Therese and Maryanne, this morning to learn more about how kids end up in foster care and what happens once they get there.

MARCH 13

Heaven and Hell

Hal Williamson & Sharon Eakes

Hal will give heaven and hell a historical perspective, talk about our amazing brains and how spirituality lives in them, and share how the Baha'i principle of the harmony of science and religion attracted him to the Baha'i Faith. Sharon has more to share about the Baha'i Faith.

Song & Soul 5:00 PM

Rev. David McFarland

Please join us for this opportunity to share thoughts, songs, and silences in a more intimate setting than is available during Sunday Morning Celebration. Come with your joys & sorrows, or come to support your fellow congregants. We meet at 5 o'clock and part at 6. All are welcome.

MARCH 20

Communion Service 10:00 AM

Reader: Donald Zeilman

Hey Holy One!

Rev. David McFarland

On this Palm Sunday, Rev. McFarland will examine what it means to welcome the holy into our lives. How can we be open to experiences of the extraordinary? How can we recognize what is holy and what is sham? Are there pitfalls to celebrating the holy? These are the kinds of questions Rev. Dave will explore.

MARCH 24

Maundy Thursday Service

Rev. David McFarland

MARCH 27

You, The Resurrection

Worship Team

This Easter we enjoy the company of folks from the Religious Education ministry in this Intergenerational Service, full of music, story, and the not-to-be-missed Easter Egg Sacrament. Our Director of Religious Education, Kris Thomas will join Rev. Dave in leading his first Easter Celebration among us. Come join the fun!

Sunday Services
at Allegheny
Unitarian
Universalist
Church begin
at 11 o'clock.
All are welcome!

Transformation Isn't Easy

As winter struggles to become spring, it's a reminder that transformation ain't easy. A little snow. A little rain. A little thaw. A little freeze.

When working for the Provincetown AIDS Ministry on Cape Cod in Massachusetts, the spirit of transformation was most definitely alive and kicking; kicking some of us a little more insistently than others. It was the time when "cocktails" – those drugs that have helped some folks live longer with HIV & AIDS – had just become available. Seemingly overnight, it was a whole new world. At that time, something dubbed "The Lazarus Effect" came into play.

Remember Lazarus? He was the friend of Jesus who – so the story goes – was raised from the dead. In the '70s movie version, Robert Powell, who played Jesus, gets visibly nauseous when Lazarus' tomb is opened. I remember seeing that scene and understanding a little about why Lazarus' second life isn't talked about in the gospels. It couldn't have been very pretty. Transformation isn't easy.

Many of the folks who came to P'town – as it's affectionately known (do you think

"P'burgh" could ever catch on?) – came to die. For many folks – but, important to remember, not for all – their prayers were answered. Well, sort of. After making arrangements to live out your last days in paradise, what happens when your last days are potentially extended into years? What about the life you thought you had? What about that life insurance policy you cashed in? What about the bridges you'd burned? What about that career you abandoned? Transformation isn't easy.

But if we're going to live, it's necessary.

As you live through winter into spring, I wish you many opportunities for transformation. What are you being called to renew? How are you being called to live in new ways? Where do you hope to grow, change, and transform? Transformation may not be easy, but it's the goal of the spiritually conscious life. And that's why we're here; to be a church of transformation. It's not easy. But it's life.

See you in church,
Rev. Dave

And that's why
we're here; to be
a church of
transformation.

IN THE CHURCH

Pancake Breakfast

On Easter morning, March 27, we will have our Annual Easter Pancake Breakfast. Charlie Snowden has once again offered to be the pancake chef.

Other breakfast items, such as juices, ready-to-serve fruit, syrups and other pancake toppings, butter, and milk are always welcome.

The kitchen gets very hectic with all of the pancake-cooking going on, so please make certain any items you bring are ready to serve.

Pancakes will be served from 9:00 until 10:30 am, so join us early for fellowship, fun, and food!

Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Mark your calendars for the annual Spaghetti Dinner, Talent Show, and Silent Auction on Saturday, March 19. Dinner begins at 5:30 PM and the talent show starts at 7.

Start thinking about your talent show skit or song and your silent auction donation. The auction has been very successful based on service items individuals have donated such as tutoring, baby and/or dog sitting, food preparation (soups to scones) and many more.

See Linda Deafenbaugh about the silent auction and Jane Dirks about the talent show. Rumor has it that Rev. Dave is working on his act for the talent show. Hope to see you there.

fUUD For Thought

If you've ever wanted to delve more deeply into Unitarian Universalism and talk through the tough questions with other Allegheny friends & members along with our minister, make sure you make time to gather after the Palm Sunday Celebration to have a bite to eat and think about the big questions in a loving and supportive environment. Please contact Rev. Dave (412/322-4261) if you're planning to attend – he'll be bringing lunch.

Easter Flowers

Forms are available to order flowers for the Easter Service. Memorials and honorariums may be designated. Flowers may be taken home at the conclusion of the Service.

Guest At Your Table

Thanks to all who were able to participate in the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's *Guest at Your Table* program. Allegheny raised over \$550 in support of this nonsectarian organization that promotes human rights and social justice within this country and worldwide.

New E-mail

We have new e-mail addresses for Allegheny. If you just need to get one of our Volunteer Office Associates or have a general question or an announcement, the e-mail address is: auuchurch@yahoo.com.

If your message is of a more personal or spiritual nature and you wish to contact Rev. Dave, the address is: auucminister@yahoo.com.

Special Thanks

This past January 19 and February 20, a dedicated group of Allegheny volunteers – Mac McMahon, Gregg Dietz, Nikki Perfetti, Nancy Martin-Silber, Sara Radelet, Jane Schwarz (she was there in spirit!) – volunteered at the downtown Pittsburgh severe weather emergency shelter. The shelter only opens on those dangerously cold nights when the temperature drops below 20 degrees or there is a snow storm or other extreme weather.

A very special thanks, also, to the Allegheny

youth RE class who volunteered to bake cookies and make up care packages for the people staying in the emergency shelter. Their hard work and gifts of support were greatly appreciated by the people staying in the shelter.

DownUnder Coffeehouse

There will be no coffeehouse this month, as we clear the stage for the Talent Show. DownUnder will be back with a new show in April.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Kris Thomas, DRE

Game Night

There will be an Intergenerational Games Night, April 1 at 7:30 PM. Please bring your favorite games and snacks to share!

A COMMUNITY VIEW

Romero Presentation

March 24 marks the 25th anniversary of the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador. There will be a special staged reading of the play *Romero* at the East Liberty Presbyterian Church at 8 PM, March 11 & 12. The reading is being produced by the Pittsburgh Playwrights Theater Company.

After the readings, there will be a discussion around the situation in El Salvador as it was in Romero's time and as it is today.

There is no charge for this event, but donations will be accepted. Please come and be inspired to continue in the fight for justice.

WhaleCoast Alaska

Five Alaska UU fellowships invite other UUs for eco-spiritual/intercultural programs in July 2005. Stay in UU homes and enjoy discussions and dinners with Alaskan UUs. See wildlife, from the Arctic Ocean to the Inside Passage.

Rev. Dick & Mary Weston-Jones will be the leaders. Visit the website: www.wuurld.org, e-mail: dick@wuurld.org, or telephone: 1-888-998-8753 for a brochure. Reservations are due on April 1.

Games Night is scheduled for April 1 at 7:30 PM in Founders Hall

DOING JUSTICE

Social Justice Committee

Updates

Our *Alternative To War Vigil* has taken place every Saturday since Labor Day, from noon to 1 PM in front of the church. We feel that it is important for the Church to have a presence on this issue. We are regularly joined by others who live on the North Side or elsewhere in the Pittsburgh area. We would love to have more Allegheny members and friends attend once a month, every six weeks – whatever works for you. We guarantee that you will be energized by the support from passing motorists.

The Deer Creek Crossing TIF was approved 12–2. While a disappointment, we felt that it was important to make our views known. Thank you to all of you who phoned or e-mailed your Council representative and/or showed up at a County Council meeting. Hopefully County Council will think twice before approving another retail TIF on a green space.

We are working with representatives from other area UU churches to come up with ways to make our UU principles more widely known. We want to be a voice from the religious left. If you are interested or have any ideas, please talk to Jeanne Zang.

Evans Moore, Executive Director of PIIN (Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network), will be conducting one-on-one conversations with

10 people from Allegheny (including teens) on Wednesday evening, March 16 and March 23. The purpose of these conversations is to find out what issues are important to our congregation. There is no pressure to make an ongoing time commitment. Evans would like to talk to people who he has not yet met. Please sign up on the sheet in Founders Hall if you can take half an hour to talk to him.

We hope to have a significant number of people involved in the Merton Center peace march on March 19. Talk to John Meikle if you're interested.

We are looking for ideas on how to connect with our surrounding church neighborhood in a meaningful way. If you have an idea, please talk to John Meikle.

We are planning a get-together with nearby Bidwell Presbyterian Church in Manchester (a new member of PIIN). The get-together will involve food and music and we would like to plan some kind of local partnership with them. Look for more news about this later.

Gregg Dietz will be facilitating an urban justice consultation with the Urban Disciples in Orange, New Jersey the first weekend in March. Talk to him if you'd like to find out more about this.

We would love to have more Church members attend the *Alternative To War Vigil* on Saturdays

SERVING THE CONGREGATION

Greeters

March 6

Barbara Stolarz and Greg Blackman

March 13

Calvin Hadidian and Andy Schwarz

March 20

Charlie Snowden and Lynn Glorieux

March 27

Martha Brethauer and Jeanne Zang

Refreshments

March 6

Sandy Kogut and Betty Schwarz

March 13

Pat Downey and Jane Dirks

March 20

Linda Lefever and Steve Wertheim

March 27

Annual Pancake Breakfast 9:00 AM

MUSIC NOTES

Kiki Barley, Music Director

Choir Festival

The second annual Choir Festival of the various Pittsburgh area UU church choirs will take place at First Church on Saturday, April 16.

The tentative schedule will be rehearsal from 3:30 to 5:30 PM, followed by a performance open to all and a potluck dinner.

GREEN PERSPECTIVE

Jeanne Zang

Old Electronics

(From the Union of Concerned Scientists)

E-waste – discarded computers, TVs, cell phones, and other electronics – comprises one to four percent of the municipal solid waste stream, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. What's worse, this equipment is often made from non-renewable resources and contains hazardous chemicals including lead, chromium, cadmium, and mercury.

Here are some ways you can cut down on this e-waste:

Buying

>> Before you buy replacement technology, assess your current equipment. Can you improve your computer's performance with a memory or video card upgrade? Do you need a cell phone with all the newest features when your old one works just fine?

>> Choose a product that has all the features you will need for the foreseeable future, has space to add components such as memory if needed, or takes the place of two separate gadgets (for example, you could consolidate equipment by buying a cell phone with integrated personal organizer, or a printer with integrated scanner or fax).

>> Purchase used or refurbished electronics (but be aware that these products might not come with a warranty).

Reusing

>> Before discarding obsolete electronics, find out whether a local repair shop, electronics training program, or even a technologically

inclined friend or family member could use it for parts or practice.

>> Consider donating used electronics to a nonprofit organization or school. Some organizations, for example, reprogram used cell phones for emergency use by senior citizens or victims of domestic violence. Computers that are less than five years old should be donated through an electronics refurbisher (see the link below), who will clean out old files and software and ensure all of the components are running properly. Computers that are more than five years old should be recycled, since software and technical support for older systems is difficult to find.

Recycling

>> General electronics and computers: Hi-Tech Scrap, located inside Construction Junction, at 214 N Lexington St., Pittsburgh, takes just about all electronics except for televisions. Call first to check: 412/731-5805.

>> Cell phones: Many cell phone manufacturers and service providers will take back used phones for reuse or recycling.

FROM THE HEART

The Board's annual *From the Heart* event was held on Saturday evening, January 29 in Founders Hall. The congregation honored Jill Brethauer and Donald Zeilman with awards for extraordinary service to the Church. In addition, over \$1200 was raised for a special building project. Congratulations Jill & DZ!



Donald Zeilman, Board President Jennifer Russell, Rev. Dave McFarland and Jill Brethauer

Hear Pittsburgh-area UU church choirs perform at the Choir Festival, Saturday, April 16

March 2005

		1	2	3	4	5
6 Choir 9:30 am Giant Eagle certificate sign-up District NA 1:30 pm	7 Board of Trustees 7:30 pm NA 7:00 pm	8 Program Committee 7:30 pm	9	10 PIIN monthly meeting RE Committee 7:30 pm	11 YRUU Conference begins Newsletter Deadline!!	12
13 Choir 9:30 am G.E. cert. delivery Song & Soul 5:00 pm	14 NA 7:00 pm	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day Shelter Meal 9:00 pm	18 OMD Men's Retreat opens	19 5:30 pm Pasta Dinner & Silent Auction & Talent show
20 Palm Sunday Choir 9:00 am Communion Service 10:00 am RE Vernal Equinox Celebration	21 NA 7:00 pm	22	23	24 Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 pm	25 Good Friday	26
27 Easter Sunday Pancake Breakfast 9:00 am	28 NA 7:00 pm	29	30	31 Cesar Chavez Day		

April 2005

					1 OMD Annual Meeting begins Games Night	2 OMD Annual Mtg
3 Choir 9:30 am Giant Eagle certificate sign-up District NA 1:30 pm	4 Board of Trustees 7:30 pm NA 7:00 pm	5 Program Comm. 7:30 pm	6	7 PIIN monthly meeting RE Committee 7:30 pm	8	9
10 Choir 9:30 am G.E. cert. delivery Song & Soul 5:00 pm	11 NA 7:00 pm	12	13	14 Shelter Meal 9:00 pm	15 Newsletter Deadline!!	16 UU Choir Festival: 5:30 pm performance
17 Choir 9:00 am Communion Service 10:00 am	18 NA 7:00 pm	19	20	21	22 Earth Day	23 Coffee House 7:30 pm Passover begins at sunset
24 Choir 9:30 am	25 NA 7:00 pm	26	27	28	29 Arbor Day	30

YOUTH CONCERNS

Spirituality Development Conference

The Ohio-Meadville District YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) Youth Spirituality Development Conference will sponsor a weekend workshop bringing youth and adults together in worship. This is an ideal opportunity for High School Youth Leaders, Adult Advisors, and Ministers. The workshop runs from Friday, March 11 to Sunday, March 13 at the UU Church of Kent, Ohio.

This Spirituality Development Conference will help you learn how to design effective, creative, and meaningful worship experiences that integrate spirituality more deeply into youth programming and the lives of the participants. SDCs bring youth and adults together to share common spiritual growth experiences and put the R (religious) back into YRUU.

An SDC can transform the tone and culture of a local youth group. People return from SDCs inspired to integrate worship and spirituality more deeply into their personal lives, youth programs, and congregations. An SDC provides experience and skills for those that are inexperienced in leading/designing worship services, while giving the experienced worship leader an opportunity to grow and stretch through sharing ideas and inspiration.

For more information, contact the Kent Church, go online at: www.uua.org/omd/yac/home.htm and click on *Spiritual Development Con*, or contact the Ohio-Meadville District Office, at 330/948-2600.

Volunteer Opportunities For UU Youth

From Rev. Dave McFarland: The following message is an edited version of an e-mail that came across my virtual desktop. YRUU is a great organization. I served on the Youth Council and it was a terrific opportunity to learn and grow and contribute to the wider life of Unitarian Universalism. Maybe you or somebody you know would be perfect for this position. Think about it! —

—The Youth Office and the Young Religious Unitarian Universalists Steering Committee is looking for at-large positions on Youth Council,

YRUU's governing body. This is a crucial and exciting time in UU youth ministry – we look forward to identifying and supporting current and future generations of leadership!

Positions are open for youth and adults, serving either one- or two-year terms. Complete information is available at uua.org/YRUU/governance/atlarge.htm, and a flier is available at uua.org/YRUU/governance/pdfs/atlarge05.pdf.

The positions are as follows: People of Color Caucus (8 positions available, one-year terms) Adult At Large (5 positions available, two-year terms) Junior High School Transitional Age Range Representative (1 position available, one-year term) Post-High School Transitional Age Range Representative (1 position available, one-year term) Position on Appraisal (1 position available, two-year term). Applications for all positions are due March 1, except the Position on Appraisal applications, which are due April 1.

Please contact the Youth Office with any questions at yruu@uua.org or 617/948-4350.

KEEPING HOUSE

What's In A Name?

Often, when the House Committee is mentioned at congregational meetings or events, there immediately follows the explanation: “buildings and grounds committee.”

Ever wondered where the name “House Committee” originated? Does it have something to do with Unitarian House? Well, no, it's actually a shortening of the phrase “Meeting House Committee.”

This designation is used across many denominations, and has its origin in the Protestant meeting house tradition. For UUs, it is a reminder of our roots in early New England Congregationalism where the meeting house was the center of the community's life.

Now you know!

The OMD YRUU Youth Spirituality Conference will be held in Kent, Ohio beginning on March 11

CONTACTS

The *Allegheny Advocate* is published monthly (except August) by Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church. Submissions must be received by the third Friday of the month preceding publication.

Contributions or inquiries may be directed to Jaime McLeod or Donald Zeilman

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WE ARE A SPIRITUALLY DIVERSE, ACTIVIST CONGREGATION